Panel Discusses Tactics of Fighting SDS Moves

INCA Auxiliary Told of Fortier Riot

By EMILE LAFOURCADE JR.

The major tactic for fighting infiltration of the Students for Democratic Society on college and high school campuses is to fight fire with fire.

This was the concensus of panel members who discussed revolution on the campus at the first meeting of the newly-formed Women's Auxiliary of the Information Council of the Americas.

The meeting was held at the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Panel members included Mrs. Joseph Schwertz, wife of Fortier Senior High School Principal, Dr. Joseph Schwertz; Neil Denoux, a student at Loyola University; Det. Larry Kihnell of the Jefferson Parish sheriff's office and Dr. Joseph Schlosser, an INCA vice-president.

EVENTS OUTLINED

Mrs. Schwertz briefly outlined events surrounding disturbances which took place at Fortier during the past school year.

"When the problems began at the school in January," she said, "my husband and I had a great deal of information that the general public did not have."

She recounted she, her husband and the school's limited administrative staff researched the SDS movement at Fortier and persons involved in it.

As Dr. Schwertz began formulating material for the "now famous" pamphlet he produced on the disturbance, she added, "we received veiled threats of physical violence. We were told anonymously over the telephone that we would pay for interfering with the SDS.

CONCERN FELT

"At this point," she added, "our concern for the school also became concern for our children, because we were told by the callers that the SDS was not limited to accomplishing its ends in a lawful manner."

She said one of the biggest problems the Fortier administration had to surmount just prior to and during the disturbances was that of communications.

Mrs. Schwertz said her husband felt the entire matter could have been quickly dealt with if parents of Fortier students had been informed about what was really going on at the school and what the SDS is.

She commented it is unfortunate that, until now, those who oppose revolutionary movements like those of the SDS are the least active and the least vocal in their opposition.

FEW REPLY

Even after the ad hoc investigation committee was formed to study the problem and questionnaires were sent to 1,600 parents, she added, only four replies were received.

"We received a lot of criticism for publishing that pamphlet," Mrs. Schwertz said, "but it broke the back of the revolution move."

Mrs. Schwertz then produced a chart, information for which was gathered by the Fortier staff independent of local police agencies, outlining roles played by leaders in the Fortier disturbance.

The chart showed inter-relationship of leaders in the Fortier disturbance with leaders in the recent public school teacher strike, disturbances at Southern University in New Orleans, at least one underground newspaper, conflict a year ago at the Andrew H. Wilson Elementary School, and organizations such as the Women's Action Committee, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, the New Republic of Africa and the Southern Conference Education Fund.

She said Wednesday was the first time the chart information was made public.

ATTENDED CONFERENCE

Neil Denoux has spent the last year organizing action against SDS with the help of INCA.

He attended a recent Conference on Revolution at Lake Forest College in Chicago which dealt with informing students about what the new left groups such as SDS are doing and how to counteract them.

Denoux emphasized that the majority of today's students oppose SDS, but they are not active enough in their opposion.

A local anti-SDS group called the Squares has been formed to provide just this kind of opposition; and Denoux said its plans call for publicly debating groups like SDS, "if they are not afraid to debate us," and for formation of its own propaganda organ.

The Squares will stage a "Square-In" Saturday in Audubon Park to rally support to its cause.

PAPERS USED

He said SDS has been successful in carrying its message to students by infiltrating and taking over establishing, campus-based, student newspapers. The result is the SDS has a strong voice at no cost to its treasury.

One panelist said after the meeting that an SDS attempt to take over the Tulane Hullabaloo took place during a conflict involving policy on publishing photographs of nudes; and this was a reason publisher Hodding Carter resigned as faculty adviser to the paper.

Denoux said wide support of the anti-revolution movement was evidenced at the Lake Forest conference by the presence of representatives of the Young Republicans, Young Democrats, Young Americans for Freedom and Voices in a Vibrant America.

"I must mention," he added, "the SDS was also represented. I guess they were scouting the enemy."

COALITION SOUGHT

He said a move is afoot among anti-revolution groups to form a coalition to more effectively fight SDS.

Denoux added, "To be sure, there are SDS members at Loyola and Louisiana State University in New Orleans as well as at Tulane," and the SDS drive to create conflict on New Orleans' campuses of higher learning is by no means over.

Det. Kihnell said the greatest gap existing in the country is the one between student activists and the police.

"The student does not realize," he said, "the role of law enforcement in society.

"Also, until recently, the police were not concerned with reasons—the what, why and how—for student activity."

GOAL LISTED

He said the main concern of the public about the SDS is its attempt to destroy the wealth and economy of the community,

"a major goal of the new left and of Communism."

"To effectively counteract new left movements," he added "you must know the nature of the beast. You should read the philosophies of Marx, Lenin, Marcuse and the Port Huron Statement."

Det. Kihnell spent two and a half years as an undercover agent-member of the SDS at Tulane, most of which was spent gathering information for the Readers' Digest and a West Coast magazine.

Toward the end of his association with the SDS he offered his services to the Jefferson sheriff's department, "to prove which side of the fence I am on."

ON SHERIFF'S FORCE

He is now a member of sheriff Alwynn Cronvich's recently-created subversive activities and security section of the intelligence unit.

"The sheriff became concerned about the new-left movement making its way South and felt he should be prepared in the event the movement makes its way into Jefferson," he added.

"Much of our time so far—and there are 13 of us—has been spent compiling information on national and local leaders of the movement and tactics they use."

There have been strong indiciations that East Jefferson High School may be the next public school SDS target in the New Orleans area.

Det. Kihnell said after the meeting that circumstances at East Jefferson are ripe for a strong SDS push.

"All they need is a small spark of conflict there, and we may have a major disturbance."

SCHOOLS NAMED

Mrs. Schwertz said the next SDS goals in New Orleans are the private schools, since those schools are the ones most upper and upper-middle class, concerned and sensitive students attend. Among schools mentioned were Newman, New Orleans Academy and McGehee.

Mrs. Schwertz sakd, however, Fortier is not immune to further SDS troubles. "I know that 15 Fortier students are in summer SDS training in Atlanta right now," she added.

Dr. Schlesser discussed the structure and goals of revolutionary groups and how they are funded.

He said many such groups obtain funds from legitimate private funds under the guise of being a social action group, "but most of them are fronts."

Another panel member pointed out that the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity has unknowingly allotted funds to such front organizations.

KNIGHTS INSTALL CANNELLA, OTHERS

Alvin Cannella has been installed as president of the Gentilly Knights Inc.

Other officers installed are Edward Schroeder, vice-president; Clarence Preau, secretary, and Joseph Barbier, treasurer.